

## **Durham Leads State in New Job Announcements First Half of 2002,**

### **Second to Charlotte in Capital Investment**

#### **"Enigma of More Jobs, Higher Unemployment"**

Durham County capped the first half of 2002 with a flurry of activity: back-to-back groundbreakings held at AW North Carolina and Eisai Incorporated, and EMD Pharmaceuticals celebrating its 109-acre land purchase in in Treyburn Corporate Park, in June. Durham County led the state in job creation (1792 jobs) and ranked second in total investment for the first half of 2002, according to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Durham County amassed a total of \$246,825,000 in announced investment, trailing only Mecklenburg County (\$554,190,000) through June.

"The synergy created by the presence of Duke and the Research Triangle Park continues to spark economic development announcements in Durham despite the sluggish economy," noted Ted Conner, vice president of economic development with the Durham Chamber. "Our announcements have been varied in both the types of companies that are relocating and growing here, as well as in their geographic locations. Northern Durham, Downtown Durham, and the Southern Durham/RTP area all attracted considerable investment, with the majority being in Treyburn Corporate Park in the north," Conner said.

Investment in Durham included the announcements of several expanding companies. In addition to AW North Carolina, Eisai, and EMD Pharmaceuticals, there were also announcements from Cormetech, Valcor, ETRS Inc. (formerly Ariel Technologies), Roma Foods, Serenex and Integrated Labs. The Economic Development Division of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce was actively involved in these investments.

These impressive numbers are exciting to area workforce development professionals. "The Employment Security Commission serves customers in need of a wide range of jobs. These industry announcements are extremely useful because the diversity of new jobs being created best suits the needs of our customers and allows us to provide quality service," said Kathy Elliott, manager of the Durham Employment Security Commission/JobLink Career Center office.

According to a North Carolina Employment Security Commission report, more people in Durham's workforce are working than at any other time in our history. In June 2002, 115,600 members of Durham's workforce had a job. At the same time, however, there are more people not working than we've seen in the last couple of decades, said Beth Hill, DCC vice president of workforce development.

Unemployment in Durham has risen to 6.1% and Elliott, along with Hill, continue to work with local firms experiencing layoffs. "Durham has not been immune to the

downturn over the last two years. We hope that these announcements will add further diversity and stability to our job base as the economy improves," Hill said.

DCC President Tom White observed, "While we celebrate and applaud this terrific team effort, we remain cognizant of the enigma of these new job announcements amidst widespread layoffs that have left many of our fellow citizens unemployed. We are committed to helping to ameliorate this paradox."

The investment data is collected in quarterly Community Investment Reports (CIRs), containing such figures as total capital investment by new and expanding industries, number of jobs created and the amount of space occupied. The Department of Commerce obtains the CIRs from the seven regional economic development partnerships, who in turn receive the data from each county's respective economic development organization.

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## Job Announcements

First 2 Quarters 2002

RANK	COUNTY	JOBS
1	DURHAM	1792
2	Franklin	1500
3	Cabarrus	1120
4	Iredell	715
5	Wake	555
6	Mecklenburg	528
7	Randolph	335
8	Cleveland	325
9	Cumberland	255
10	Rutherford	250

## Capital Investment

First 2 Quarters 2002

COUNTY	INVESTMENT
Mecklenburg	\$554,190,000
DURHAM	\$246,825,000
Guilford	\$106,300,000
Cabarrus	\$67,000,000
Alamance	\$64,000,000
Iredell	\$42,670,000
Catawba	\$42,500,000
Forsyth	\$34,200,000
Dare	\$23,000,000
Stokes	\$22,850,000

Source: North Carolina Department of Commerce